

Remarks/Arguments

A. Pending Claims

Claims 14-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 17-19 are new. Claims 1, 5, and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-13 and 17-19 are pending in the case.

B. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over Brandt in View of Beier Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-12 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,905 to Brandt et al. (hereinafter "Brandt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,905 to Beier et al. (hereinafter "Beier") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

To reject a claim as obvious, the Examiner has the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Warner*, 154 U.S.P.Q. 173, 177-78 (C.C.P.A. 1967). To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974); MPEP § 2143.03.

In addition, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Amended claims 1, 5, and 10 describe combinations of features including "accessing the first database in response to writing the first database identifier value corresponding to the matching key value into the third memory, wherein accessing the first database comprises using the first database identifier value to point to the database location." Support for the amendments

to claims 1, 5, and 10 may be found in Applicant's specification at least on page 20, lines 17-19; page 21, line 25 through page 22, line 5; and FIG. 8. The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claims 1, 5, and 10, in combination with the other features of the claims.

The Office Action acknowledges that Brandt fails to teach accessing a first database in response to writing a first database identifier value into a third memory. Nonetheless, the Office Action takes the position that Beier discloses such a feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's position. Beier discloses using a table in memory to verify whether a reorganization number in a pointer set matches a current reorganization number in an instorage table to indicate whether a direct pointer is valid and can be used (Beier, column 6, line 65 to column 7, line 2). If the reorganization numbers do not match, this means the target partition has been reorganized and the direct pointer is out of date (Beier, column 7, lines 6-8). Beier does not appear to teach or suggest accessing a database in response to writing a database identifier value corresponding to a key value into a memory, wherein accessing the database comprises using the database identifier value to point to a location in the database.

Claims 1, 5, and 10 also describe "wherein the one or more key values and the one or more database identifier values stored in the second memory are entered by a user of the FSO computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system." The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claims 1, 5, and 10, in combination with the other features of the claims.

The Office Action cites a lengthy portion of Brandt (column 28, lines 57 through column 30, line 44) for the above-quoted feature of claims 1, 5, and 10. As Applicant pointed out in its response to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004, the cited portion of Brandt appears to disclose a process for renting a car by allowing the customer to access workflow management

application software (namely, "FlowMark"). The cited portion does not appear to disclose entry of key values and one or more database identifier values stored in a second memory. Moreover, the cited portion of Brandt appears to relate actions taking place during use of a system to rent a car (e.g., to confirm a reservation) to a customer, not during configuration of an FSO computer system. For example, Brandt states:

During the processing of the reservation confirmation template, activity program 432 has issued a Receive API to WWW APIs 434 which acts as a confirmation message for activity program 432 to ensure that the customer has received and viewed the confirmation number. The web client then clicks on the "submit" button when they have received and recorded their confirmation number. This data is transmitted, as before to web server application 222 along with the web userID and password which have been retained by web browser 212. Web server application 222 uses this information to once again authenticate the web client to CGI 420.

(Brandt, column 28, line 57 through column 29, line 1)

FMIG 430 then retrieves the stored variable values from the internal data cache and transmits the data to CGI 420. CGI 420 receives the data and variables and detaches from FMIG 430. CGI 420 then contacts web server application 222 and transmits the variables and data and directs the web server application to render the specified HTML to web browser 212.

At this point, interaction with the user regarding the car rental request has been completed.

(Brandt, column 29, lines 28-36)

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically point out how the cited portions of Brandt teach or suggest the above-quoted feature of claim 1, 5, and 10, or withdraw the rejections of these claims.

For at least the reasons provided above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 5, and 10 and the claims depending from claims 1, 5, and 10 are patentable over the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests the removal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of these claims.

In addition, Applicant submits that claims dependent on claims 1, 5, and 10 are independently patentable. For example, claims 2, 6, and 11 describe combinations of features including “wherein the accessing the first database in response to writing the first database identifier value into the third memory comprises: comparing the first database identifier value in the third memory to the active database identifier value in the fourth memory.” The cited art does not appear to teach or suggest at least this feature of claims 2, 6, and 11, in combination with the other features of the claims.

The Office Action takes the position that Brandt discloses the above-quoted feature of claims 2, 6, and 11. In support of this position, the Office Action includes merely a citation to Brandt “col. 31, line 58-col. 32, line 51”. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this position. Brandt appears to disclose a FlowMark/Internet Gateway (FMIG) generating a “conversation identifier.” The conversation identifier is included in all WWW application program interface submissions dealing with a particular web client and a particular process instance. Brandt does not appear to teach or suggest wherein accessing a first database in response to writing a first database identifier value into the third memory comprises comparing the first database identifier value in the third memory to an active database identifier value in a fourth memory.

Claims 2, 6, and 11 also describe “setting the active database to the first database in response to the first database identifier value in the third memory not matching the active database identifier value in the fourth memory.” Applicant respectfully submits that this feature, in combination with the other features of the claims, is not taught or suggested by the cited art.

The Office Action takes the position that Brandt discloses the above-quoted feature of claims 2, 6, and 11. In support of this position, the Office Action includes merely a citation to Brandt “col. 33, lines 2-31”. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this position. Brandt appears

to disclose an activity program used in moving a rental car from one location to another. A “FlowMark/Internet Gateway (FMIG)” issues an application program interface to re-start the activity program, whose activity has previously been “disconnected.” Brandt does not appear to teach or suggest setting an active database to the first database in response to a first database identifier value in a third memory not matching an active database identifier value in a fourth memory. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically point out how the cited portions of Brandt teach or suggest the above-quoted features of claim 2, 6, and 11, or withdraw the rejections of these claims.

Claims 3, 7, and 12 describe combinations of features including “wherein setting the active database to the first database comprises setting the active database identifier value stored in the fourth memory to the first database identifier value from the third memory.” Applicant respectfully submits that this feature, in combination with the other features of the claims, is not taught or suggested by the cited art.

The Office Action takes the position that Brandt discloses the above-quoted feature of claims 3, 7, and 12. In support of this position, the Office Action includes merely a citation to Brandt “col. 27, lines 5-64”. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this position. Brandt appears to disclose activity programs used to perform steps relating to rental of a car (e.g., determining whether a request can be filled, reserving a car, confirmation a reservation). A “conversation identifier” is included in WWW application program interface submissions between the activity programs and a web client. Brandt does not appear to teach or suggest setting an active database identifier value stored in a fourth memory to a first database identifier value from a third memory. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically point out how the cited portions of Brandt teach or suggest the above-quoted feature of claim 3, 7, and 12, or withdraw the rejections of these claims.

C. New Claims

New claim 17 describes a combination of features including “wherein the one or more key values and the one or more database identifier values stored in the second memory are entered by a user of the FSO computer system during initial set up of the FSO computer system for processing software transactions.” Support for claim 17 may be found in the specification at least on page 10, lines 1-11. Applicant submits that the combination of features of this claim are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

New claim 18 describes a combination of features including “wherein the one or more key values and the one or more database identifier values stored in the second memory are entered by a user of the FSO computer system during initial set up of the FSO computer system for processing software transactions.” Support for claim 18 may be found in the specification at least on page 10, lines 1-11. Applicant submits that the combination of features of this claim are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

New claim 19 describes a combination of features including:

- building a second key value from one or more data elements stored in the first memory dynamically during processing of a second user request for an FSO business transaction;

- comparing the second key value to one or more key values stored in the second memory;

- writing into the third memory a second database identifier value of the one or more database identifier values stored in the second memory in response to finding a match between the second key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the second memory, the second database identifier value comprising a pointer to a second database location in the first database; and

- accessing the first database in response to writing the second database identifier value corresponding to the matching key value into the third memory, wherein accessing the first database comprises using the second database identifier value to point to the second database location.

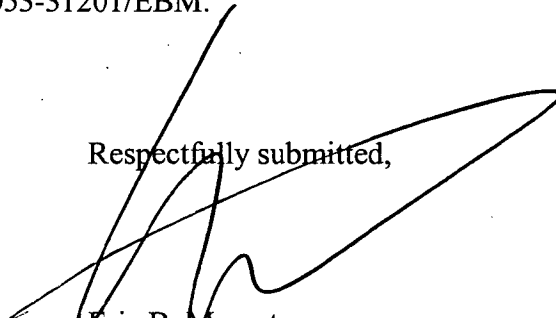
Support for claim 19 may be found in the specification at least on page 9, lines 9-19 and page 21, line 16 through page 22, line 5. Applicant submits that the combination of features of this claim are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

D. Additional Remarks

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5053-31201/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,


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